

## **Huntsville High School PTSA Supporting Student Success**

**Implementation:** The success of every student is a primary goal of our school and PTSA. Successful students are productive students both in the classroom and in their community. Making opportunities available to our students is greatly emphasized at Huntsville High School. The PTSA, teaching staff, and administration strive to make several opportunities available to promote student success, develop academic skills and promote safety. Due to the 1:1 Digital Initiative of Huntsville City Schools, Huntsville High School distributed a computer to each student enrolled at HHS before the start of school year. This calendar year, HHS had 1,880+ enrolled students, therefore, 1,880+ computers, computer bags and chargers were handed out to students over a four week period in the summer. PTSA helped begin this process by working with the Library and IT staff at HHS to create a system of distribution order to make sure each student and computer were accounted for and properly matched to each student. Prior to Registration, approximately 15 PTSA volunteers worked during the summer to scan computers; match computers with bags and chargers; and sorted and alphabetized the computers by grade. Then, during the two days of Registration prior to the beginning of school, approximately 15 volunteers worked to hand out computers to the students who were in attendance. After school began, 5 volunteers continued working with IT and the Library staff to ensure each transfer and new student received a computer, as well as those students whose computer was not returned before the start of school. These same computers will need to be collected at the end of the school year in May 2015 to be reimaged during the summer by the HCS IT department. Around 10 volunteers are planning on working with IT and the HHS Library staff to create a "return" system and make sure all components are brought back to the school over a two week period at the end of the school year. Our PTSA knows that without our help, the HHS Library and IT staff would have a difficult time providing the manpower necessary to make sure students had their

computer and are ready to begin the academic school year with the tools they need to be successful.

Our PTSA is proud to have been working for the last two years to build a relationship with the InterClub Council (ICC) of HHS. This council, comprised of both students and faculty sponsors, meets once a month to share information among all the clubs at HHS. From some of these meetings, it became clear with all of the after school dances, school competitions and games that there was a need to have a Distracted Driving course. PTSA and HHS Student Council were able to locate a company that comes in-house with a program that includes simulators so students can learn the dangers and reality of distracted driving during hands-on applications. Eleventh and twelfth grade students, as well as Drivers Education students were able to view a video and try out the simulators. In addition, all students were given the opportunity to visit the simulators during their lunch period. Our PTSA and HHS students realize that safety, while driving, is a major priority for our students.

**Success:** Our students are fortunate that so many of our parents, faculty and administrators promote academic success and genuinely care about safety and their futures and roles in school and in their community. We assisted the school staff by collecting, tagging and administering computers to roughly 1,880+ students over the summer months prior to the school year. We had approximately 15 volunteers help with this task making this a hugely successful program. Approximately 1,000 students were given the opportunity to view simulators and learn about the dangers of distracted driving. Because of our efforts we have seen more academic skills being developed, less stress about receiving computers and more awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.